

The abdomen is of the usual proportions, but the surface is more coarsely tubercled; the telson and broad rami of the last pair of feet are spined as in living species of *Cambarus*. It is interesting to observe that this species is most nearly related to *Cambarus affinis*, which, as observed to me by Mr. P. R. Uhler, who kindly gave me some species for comparison, is the more generalized American species of the genus, and probably the oldest one. It would be interesting to know whether this fossil form is actually a *Cambarus* or an *Astacus*, and to ascertain which of these two genera, now restricted, the latter to the Pacific slope of the Sierra Nevada, the former to the Central and Eastern zoogeographical provinces, was the first to obtain a foothold on our continent. There is a probability that the present fossil form is a member of the American genus *Cambarus*. The species may be called, therefore, *Cambarus primævus*.—*American Naturalist*, March 1880.

*On the Occurrence of Tachymenis vivax in Cyprus.*

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

Major-General R. Biddulph, C.B., has kindly placed in my hands a snake obtained on the Lapithos road in Cyprus, which proves to be *Tachymenis vivax*, a species not contained in the collection described by me in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 741, and, indeed, as far as I can see, new to the fauna of the island. The captor, Capt. Stevenson, informed Gen. Biddulph that the natives call it "Kufi," and believe its bite to be fatal to man; the species, however, is entirely harmless, and evidently owes its bad reputation to its singular resemblance to a viperine snake, and more especially to the viper occurring in the island, *Vipera lebetina*. This is a case of so-called mimicry which would be very far from benefiting the species concerned.

The Cyprian specimen differs from all the other specimens in the British Museum (received from Xanthus, Syria, the Holy Land, and Dalmatia) in having twenty-one longitudinal series of scales, the typical form possessing nineteen only. It does not differ in other respects.

*On Dana's Lysiosquilla inornata.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me to state that I think Mr. E. J. Miers is perfectly right in referring (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. v. p. 8) the *Squilla* from La Guayra to Dana's *Lysiosquilla inornata*. When I wrote my letter, published in P. Z. S. 1870, I had no access to Dana's work; but I was afterwards able to compare his description with the specimen in our Museo Nacional; so that another one was given by me, in December 1877, under that name to Mr. William Stürup, Danish Consul-General in this city, who, I believe, sent it to the Museum in Copenhagen.

I am, yours very truly,

A. ERNST.

Carácas, March 18, 1880.